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FOREIGN PAUPERS AND NATURALIZATION LAWS.

[To accompany bills H. R. Nos. 873 and 874.]

JULY 2, 1838.

[CONCLUDED.]

Mr. Chapin to Mr. Russell.

DEAR SIR: In reply to the interrogatories which you communicated to me some time since, in reference to the number of emigrants who have arrived at this and other ports of the United States during the past ten years; the number of paupers; their character; from whence they come; together with other particulars relative to the violation of the naturalization law, &c., I proceed to state the facts within my knowledge. It is proper that I should premise, however, by saying that my public duties, in connection with the difficulties of obtaining many material facts which I have been desirous to secure, and which are not even yet at hand, have delayed my reply to an unexpected, and perhaps, an unreasonable time. Some questions, indeed, it will be impossible for me to answer, inasmuch as the sources of information are at so great a distance as to exclude the possibility, under present circumstances, of securing such data as would justify positive conclusions upon these particular subjects. Still, I trust you will have obtained the information desired, in reply to the duplicate interrogatories, which, as you inform me, have been transmitted to the places referred to. From the sources to which you have applied here, it is not probable you will receive much information at present. Mr. Morse has been, for some time past in Europe; and the arduous official duties of our mayor prevent the requisite attention to the subject in question; he has, accordingly, desired me to reply with a few particulars at my command. I would add, also, that upon some subjects embraced in the inquiries, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to obtain that minute information which is so desirable, when the effects are so obvious and alarming.—Local causes and political interests unfortunately oppose serious obstacles in the way of acquiring many important and useful facts. This circumstance, among others, renders the information which should be afforded from those quarters still more necessary and interesting. But such is the devotion to party with very many otherwise unexceptionable citizens, and such the political objects to be secured by withholding many particular causes of our just apprehensions, that little success usually attends efforts to get possession of records which should yield us satisfactory details.

It cannot be otherwise than painful to the really patriotic citizen to notice this fact; still, it is calculated to illustrate one of the principal causes of our fears, and to awaken our native fellow-countrymen to a sense of the importance of securing our privileges and liberties in such a manner as that they cannot be so frequently and recklessly endangered.

It is well known that the influence of foreigners gives, or has heretofore given, predominance to that party into which its weight has been thrown. Ordinarily we poll from 35,000 to 38,000 votes, about 15,000 of which are, it is computed, those of foreigners or adopted citizens. Hence the influence which they exercise over our destinies, and hence, also, the efforts and sacrifices made by politicians and selfish and ambitious men to secure the votes and partisan zeal of the thousands of our poor and ignorant foreign population at our city elections. The objects, likewise, in withholding or obscuring facts relative to these foreigners, and which, if generally known, would increase the fears of many of our citizens, are, from this circumstance, equally apparent. That this great balancing power may be seriously pernicious, or fatally destructive to our institutions, I need not remind you; and that it has already been so, is known to us all. I would not wish to be understood that there are not very many among our adopted citizens who are highly respectable, intellectual, moral, and patriotic; but of the gross numbers who flock to our shores, such will not be thought to constitute a very large proportion. The time required to give to foreigners the majority of votes at all important city elections, can be easily conceived from the above particulars, in connexion with the increasing numbers added to our population and to our naturalized citizens; certainly, when it is known that from one to two thousand are manufactured on and for the occasion of each election. At the election of last fall, more than two thousand were naturalized; report says twenty-seven hundred; and at that of this spring, more than eleven hundred. These estimates may fall short of the actual numbers; but they being ascertained, we are justified in the supposition that they may be even greater, from circumstances connected with the exposition of the records of the court, as will hereafter appear.—This fact should be noticed, in passing, as showing the importance of restricting the power to grant certificates of naturalization to the United States courts, to the supreme courts, or to the Legislatures of the several States, or, perhaps, to Congress itself. But, as I propose to refer again to this and previous particulars, I will here subjoin some few statistical facts, in answer to so much of your first interrogatory as is included in the following quotation, viz: "What number of foreigners have arrived at New York in each year, and have done for the last ten years?"

In 1827,	20,824	In 1833,	41,752
1828,	19,958	1834,	48,111
1829,	15,036	1835,	35,308
1830,	30,224	1836,	60,541
1831,	31,739	1837,	52,806
1832,	48,589		

Making a total since 1827, and for ten years,

of alien passengers who have arrived at the port of New York alone, of 384,064. But, in the language of a recent report on this subject, and which is undoubtedly near the truth, "it is confidently believed that the whole number of foreign immigrants who have arrived in this city since 1830, amounts to more than 500,000."

Previous to the year 1830, the estimates include all the passengers, and, consequently, some citizens of the United States. Since that date, alien passengers alone are enumerated. It is proper to remark, however, that the numbers for 1827-'8-'9, being taken from the custom-house, and those since from the Mayor's office of this city, exhibit a discrepancy of several thousand.—It may be assumed, as will hereafter appear, that an annual difference of 8,000 exists between the two departments; and hence, that to the above number should be added 16,000 passengers, making the total 390,064. In 1831 this difference was 16,918, and in 1832 it was 9,774. It is not impossible but that this discrepancy originated through the interest felt for the result by some officers connected with the returns to the custom-house, as it is well-known that very many of them are themselves foreigners, and their own political influence and resources may, possibly, have been instrumental in some way. It is, nevertheless, true that the returns from the Mayor's office are correct, as far as they go; though even these, in point of fact fall short of the actual number of passengers by vessels of, and less than, 40 tons burden; and they are not taken into this account. I am assured, by the Mayor, that the law requiring all alien passengers to report themselves at his office within forty-eight hours after being landed within the city, is very often violated. The numbers before quoted are derived from a compliance with this law; but thousands make their way into this city without the least knowledge of, or disposition to comply with it. Indeed, it might be fatal to the objects of great numbers coming to this country, particularly felons and refugees from justice, to make such a report of themselves, and it is well known that many act from a knowledge of this fact. The landing, also, of whole ship-loads of aliens in a neighboring State bordering upon our bay, is notorious, and in direct contravention of this law.—All such secretly mingle with the mass of our floating population, and are no more thought of until arraigned before our police or criminal courts, our until forced upon our charities.

According to the reports of the custom-house, there were 1,256 passengers who arrived at this port from 1st of Jan'y to the 1st of April, last past. Taking this estimate as it is given, and the character of the passengers as reported, for the purpose of an example, and for the deductions which follow, we are enabled to arrive at the relative proportion of those who are provided with means to support themselves or families, or who possibly may not be a tax and burden upon our citizens.

Of the above number, then, for the first quarter of this year, it is stated that there were 267 citizens of the United States, 658 aliens from Great Britain, Ireland, and Scotland, 176 from Germany, and 155 from various other countries; 217 of these were merchants, 91 mechanics, 128 farmers, 34 laborers, 55 mariners, artists, milliners, seamstresses, &c.; leaving the balance of 729, or nearly two-thirds of the whole, without any occupation or even the pretence of one. Now it is by no means probable that more than one-half of those pretending to have the above occupations came to this country without means for the prosecution of their vocation. The destiny of a large part of such thus unprovided for, and of the 729 who made no pretence to a business of any kind, is too clearly shown by the continually rapid increase and extent of our public and private charities, and by the alarming numbers and varied character of criminal offences in this city and county. But of the 217 merchants who should be excluded from the overwhelming proportion of those liable to become a tax and a burden, from their having no professional business during times of general distress, and when our own native and established mechanics were out of employ, it is quite certain the greater part were American merchants, mainly from this city, and probably possessed of considerable wealth. Again, the laborers are to be classed with those having no particular professional trade or business. Deducting, therefore, but one-half from the number of reputed merchants, one half from those of the various reported occupations and the 34 laborers, and you have but 129 out of the 1,256, as certain to have had the requisite means for successful competition in business and a permanent support for themselves and families.—Another fact to be still more particularly noticed is, that, among the farmers, mechanics, and all the other enumerated occupations, are included the wife and all the children;—so that if each male head of the family had, beside his wife, but two children, it will be seen that three-fourths of the before-mentioned number are to be deducted therefrom; and hence, that the supposed 229 independent alien passengers during this time is, indeed, but 76! and if we suppose the 267 citizens of the United States to be justly excluded, and as having means for returning to their established vocations, and apply the facts to the 989 alien passengers, we shall have but fifty-four individuals out of the whole number, or one only in every eighteen alien passengers who were of the unexceptionable character above mentioned.

Now this may be considered just data for both previous and subsequent time; and, though these particulars are introduced in this place, they will be seen to be illustrated in answer to other interrogatories, and to have more immediate reference thereto. But, in order to render these still more plain and satisfactory, I will add further particulars from the year 1836, which will likewise show in a striking manner the nature of our foreign population, and the professional character of those who come to obtain a livelihood among us together with the numbers of aliens from different parts of the world.

During the three first quarters of 1836, there were reported to have been among the passengers 1,029 merchants, 65 clergymen, 95 physicians, 5,667 mechanics, 37 artists, 48 milliners, 3,807 farmers, 103 dressmakers, 93 mariners, and 3 seamstresses.—Total 10,947. Of these there were citizens of the United States, 1,361. Aliens from Great Britain, Ireland, and Scotland, 26,698. France, 2,352. Germany, 9,889. Switzerland, 337.

Prussia, - - - - -	319
Denmark, - - - - -	296
Nova Scotia - - - - -	239
Spain, - - - - -	108
West Indies, - - - - -	87
Italy, - - - - -	40
New Brunswick, - - - - -	32
Turkey, - - - - -	2
From various countries, - - - - -	7,244
Total, - - - - -	49,004

Of the 2,188 who arrived during the first quarter, 1,419 had no occupation; of the 25,924 during the second quarter, 16,530 had no occupation; and of the 19,892 during the third quarter, 14,485 had no occupation; making no less than 38,057 aliens cast upon the citizens of New York alone, in nine months or 47,571 within the year, without occupation of any kind whatever; or in other words were paupers! Deducting the 1,361 citizens, and within the above brief period, we had 47,643 added to our foreign population.

The total of 49,004 for nine months, it should be borne in mind, does not include those who arrived in vessels of less than 40 tons, the great numbers making their way from the Canadas, nor those continually coming from other places. Now, if we apply the same criterion as that applied to the first quarter of the present year, after deducting the 1,361 passengers, who were citizens, and generally merchants of the United States, (which conclusively shows the facts in the case,) we shall have had but 1,198 who were furnished with means for the support of themselves and those depending upon them.

Among the artists are included "hand-organ grinders," &c.; and among the others, estimated as having some kind of professional business, there were those equally precarious and useless, to say nothing of the utter impossibility of by far the larger portion of those having a good business, or even of those skilled in business, finding employment, while so many thousands of our native mechanics are thrown out of employ.

Thus, then, out of 47,643 aliens arriving in this city in nine months, 46,445, or one in every thirty-seven, possessed no adequate means to establish themselves in business, or to ensure success and support.

It will be seen that of the above number of alien passengers, 23,698 were from Ireland, Great Britain, and Scotland, which exceeds one-half of the whole by 5,753.

The number of passengers from foreign countries who arrived in the United States during the same year, viz: 1836, according to the reports of the custom-houses, was 80,932.

Males, - - - - -	51,942
Females, - - - - -	29,010
Total, - - - - -	80,952

Of which were born in the United States, - - - - -	4,013
Aliens, - - - - -	76,939
Total, - - - - -	80,952

There were natives of Great Britain and Ireland, - - - - -	47,792
British American colonies, - - - - -	2,681
Germany, - - - - -	20,142
France, - - - - -	4,443
Prussia, - - - - -	568
Switzerland, - - - - -	445
Denmark, - - - - -	414
Holland, - - - - -	297
Mexico, - - - - -	797
Texas, - - - - -	698
Cuba, - - - - -	516
All other countries, - - - - -	2,152
Total, - - - - -	76,939

Of these were landed at New York, - - - - -	56,578
Baltimore, - - - - -	6,058
New Orleans - - - - -	4,966
Boston, - - - - -	2,690
Philadelphia, - - - - -	2,147
Portland, - - - - -	1,621
Passamaquoddy, - - - - -	1,471
All other ports, - - - - -	1,408
Total, - - - - -	76,939

These data having been obtained through the custom-houses, they do not agree, as to the numbers who arrived into the port of New York during that year, with those shown in the Mayor's office, by a difference of 3,963. The same discrepancy may, and undoubtedly does exist in reference to all the places enumerated above. It will be seen, also, to correspond with the differences noticed in previous years. The above differs, indeed, from that now actually found at the custom-house, for the particulars are embodied in the Secretary of State's department, although purporting to have been derived from the first mentioned source. While the custom-house exhibits the number of passengers in 1836 at 58,000 the State Department presents it at 56,578, making the difference 2,019.

It would appear, according to the Secretary's report that there arrived into this port, in 1836, more than half of the whole who arrived into the United States, by a difference of 18,109, or more than two-thirds by 5,285; i. e. while 46,578 arrived at New York, but 20,361 arrived at all other places within the country. According to the facts within the Mayor's office, however, which are unquestionable evidence upon this point, and which give the number as having arrived here in that year at 60,541, and assuming the Secretary's report as to other places to be correct, there were within a fraction (542) of three-fourths of the whole who arrived at the port of New York.—From this, it might appear, that few other parts of our country are affected by the multitudes of foreigners who are continually pouring into our city; but it should be understood that from this city they are flooding the interior towns and the far West. Were all to mingle permanently with our citizens, we should have had, since 1830, an annual addition of more than 50,000, or with seven years more than 700,000 souls, besides our natural increase, and the superaddition of our own countrymen.

I think, with others, that the average number of foreigners who have arrived into the United States annually for the last few years may be fairly estimated at 100,000. Taking this estimate, then, for data, since 1830, and we have added to

our population within that period 750,000 aliens—of a character, which will be hereafter noticed, though at all times understood. Assuming the same numbers for the following two quarters as that taken for the first two of this year, an increase of but one-fourth for the subsequent two years, (which cannot be considered an unreasonable estimate,) and we shall have had within ten years, from 1830 to 1840, or the brief period of one census, an addition of one million and fifty thousand foreigners!! But the probability is, that the increase will be in a still greater and progressive ratio. Though I am not disposed to enter into the calculation as to the numbers or character of such immense additions to our citizens, yet the consideration is calculated to awaken the attention of our fellow countrymen to the probable results. Calculating the numbers and characters of the aliens who arrive in other ports of the United States, by the same estimates as those applicable to this city for 1836, as before shown, and we find that 95,142 are to be classed as those dependent aliens have mentioned. Increase or add to the total number of passengers, and the same alarming proportions exist. To one jealous of our native rights and ardently attached to our institutions, these things are calculated to excite even more apprehension than heretofore exhibited; not have those who are equally advocates of religious freedom less reason to apprehend the result of this condition of things, and the rapid increase of those devoted to principles and dogmas diametrically opposed to their opinions of religious liberty, and the character of our republican government. In addition to this, the natural increase of such devotees will by no means diminish the causes of such fears, since the same sentiments are uniformly propagated from parents to their numerous offsprings.—What, then, must be the reflections, and what the conclusions of every honest and intelligent patriot, in view of the present; in connexion with the prospects of the future!

The number of alien passengers will be seen to have doubled since 1830; that is, in 1830 there were 30,224, while in 1836 there were 60,541. May we not infer from this fact that they will likewise double during the succeeding ten years, so that we shall have two millions for the following census? These, united as they ever have been, and as they probably ever will be, and acting in concert with the many millions already in the country, will be sufficiently powerful of themselves to change the character of our national institutions; but, when acting in behalf of one or more foreign potentates, and their legions, what reasonable hope could we entertain for the permanency of our liberties?

The preceding statements answer, as particularly as time permit me to do, the first three of your interrogatories, viz: "What number of emigrants arrive annually, and have done for the last ten years?" "From what countries have they emigrated?" "What proportion bring with them the means of supporting themselves and families?" For general purposes, it will be noticed, the particulars given for the year 1836 are deemed to be sufficiently accurate; still they may be carried out to great advantage.

To the questions "How is the expense of the transportation hither of such as are poor, defrayed, and by whom; and what proportion of foreign emigrants are paupers?" it is not easy to give precise answers, though the latter question is partially answered, it will have been seen, by the data afforded by the results of 1836. Certain it is that great numbers who may not have been paupers in their own country become so in this, inasmuch as they come here without any provision for the future, without friends in this country, and without any prospects beyond the moment. Laborers leave their employment, and mechanics their business, and take passage for this country with barely means to defray their expenses hither. I am led to think that this is the case with by far the larger portion of emigrants, and particularly with the Irish. They, or a majority of them, have been induced to believe that they will find little or no difficulty in obtaining employment and high wages on arriving in this country. Chagrin and disappointment take the place of sanguine hopes and exalted anticipations; such oftentimes become desperate and reckless, and resort to theft or charitable institutions. These anticipations have been induced, in a great measure, no doubt, by representations of friends in this country, and by those who are interested in their transportation; regardless, as most of them are, both of truth and of justice. Many of them, after disposing of their stock in trade, or their various implements of business, have barely a sufficiency to defray their expenses to America, and, consequently, no resources for the subsistence of their families. Pauperism, therefore, is the almost inevitable result from these things. For the last two years, while great numbers of those who have preceded them, and while, in fact, our own countrymen have been mostly unemployed, we could hardly suppose a different result. Wretchedness and crime ensue, and hence our taxes and fears have become also great. Large numbers, it is true, have spread abroad into neighboring towns and States; but there too are great numbers destined to wretchedness and want. A fruitful source of pauperism results from the practice of fathers of families leaving the city, in quest of employment, no doubt, and thereby compelling the public authorities to support the wife and children. Should such fortunately succeed in finding work, it is very rare that they contribute much, if any thing, towards the maintenance of their families; and thus it is, in part, that our charitable institutions are filled. The children are sent wandering throughout the city, begging alms; in this the mother finds it advantageous to participate, and she often finds it a profitable business withal.

It has been found that much the largest number of such poor and idle persons are from Ireland and Great Britain. There are also considerable numbers of such deported from Havre and ports of Germany; but the Swiss, Scotch, and many others from interior towns and villages on the continent, have at least the merit of being industrious, and some few bring with them the means of support.

As before stated, it is quite impossible for us to ascertain exactly what number are actually forced or hired to leave their country, because they are influenced by causes generally operating secretly. It is but natural to suppose, however, that great exertions are made by the municipal authorities to rid the towns and cities of vast numbers of paupers, and of the vicious and irre-

claimable; and where else than to America can they send them? That it is the settled policy of such authorities thus to throw off their expensive poor, and to cast them upon our shores, is not only not denied, but publicly confessed. Their own language is, "to get rid of the most vicious and irreclaimable paupers, by sending them to America." Large sums have been raised for this purpose. Private contributions, public disbursements and taxes, have alike contributed to this end; and foreign presses have announced this with unblushing effrontery. Parliament has been petitioned for this purpose, to sanction the raising of money to carry on the business more successfully, well satisfied, as the petitioners were, that the American people will very generously, nay, must, support all such as it may suit their convenience to cast upon our shores. There was raised at one time by a few towns £2,473 to defray the expenses of 320 paupers to this country.

The superintendent of our alms-house states to me that he has seen one of these passenger-ships filled with paupers alone. Again, he says, "When entire cargoes have come out, it has been ascertained that the parishes have paid their expenses; and we frequently hear the same thing from straggling pauper passengers. Indeed, they have no other mode of getting here. It is common for them to walk directly from the ship to the alms-house, and ask for admission!" It appears from printed facts, that, of the alien passengers who arrived here during one month of last year, more than one hundred applied to the commissioners of the alms-house immediately after their arrival; most of whom had their passages paid by the parishes from which they were sent.

The report of the British commissioners for examining the poor-law system, proves that the wretched and depraved are sent here per advice, and as the most certain means of successfully ridding the British people of expense, trouble and crime. Thus the charities which belong to the unfortunate of our own country are absorbed in supporting worthless and miserable mendicants, criminals, and fugitives from abroad.

The commissioners of our alms-house also state that "In seven-tenths of the applicants for 'out-door' relief during the past winter, the husbands of the Irishwomen making the applications were out of the city. They were, however," he continues to remark, "very particular to be here to vote at the spring election."

It is stated on authority said to be entitled to credit, that the "steerage passages of more than 30,000 persons have been paid in Ireland, England, and Scotland, to enable them to leave there for America; most of whom have arrived at this port!"

An English gentleman recently stated that he had seen the poor marched down in droves from the poor-houses to the ships which were to take them to this country, accompanied by the superintendents, who settled for their passages! The commissioners still further state that there are not over one-fourth of the emigrants who come to this country that possess means to afford a comfortable support for themselves and families on arriving here. The great body of such come with the expectation that they shall find immediate employment; and if not, that we shall provide for them by charitable means.

From the report of the resident physician of the hospital last year, as embodied in the annual message of the Mayor of this city, it appears that of the whole number admitted to that institution for the year, viz: 1,209, only 206 were native Americans! This, it will be perceived, is in the proportion of one American to six foreigners; or in the proportion of one to every forty-four of the latter in our city, and of twelve hundred and thirty-three of the former. During the year ending in February last, there had been assisted from the alms-house 8,300 poor; more than two-thirds of whom were foreigners! The proportion, as compared with the relative population of the city, of foreign poor to that of native poor, beside the 5,000 who have received out-door assistance, three-fourths of whom were foreigners, and the vast number supported by private charity, will have been seen by a comparison in the returns of January of last year—i. e. 982 foreigners to 227 Americans—to be as one to every forty-six foreign, and as one to every eleven hundred and twenty-three Americans; or more than twenty-two to one!

The progressive increase in the numbers of foreign paupers cannot be otherwise than alarming. The expenses for their support will be seen by the reports of the municipal authorities. On the 8th September last there were 3,332 persons in the bridewell, alms-house, and penitentiary, 2,045 of whom were foreigners. This, it is said, exhibits an increase of 80 per cent. of foreigners since September, 1836. In view of these facts the commissioners remark: "This exhibit justifies the demand for increased commutation-fees, (which have averaged from two to three dollars for each person,) and points to the necessity of enforcing all laws touching the introduction of foreign emigrants."

On the 8th of May last, the number of persons in the alms-house alone was 1,842; of these 719 were foreigners. Of the 135 in the city hospital at the above date, 105 were foreigners; or one to every 424 of the comparative population; while of the Americans there was one to every 8,500; there being but 30 persons of the 255,000 of our population! At the same date there were in the lunatic asylum 179 persons, 110 of whom were foreigners; being 69 Americans to 110 foreigners, or one to every 49 of the latter, and one to every 3,695 of the former!

Of the 621 in the penitentiary, 326 were foreigners; of the 134 in the bridewell, 73 were foreigners; and of the children supported on the Long Island farms, 273 were of foreign birth. It should be noticed that a large proportion of the children who are classed as Americans were born here of foreign parents, and many soon after their arrival.

Besides the charitable institutions heretofore enumerated, there are an extensive "City Hospital," "Seamen's Retreat," "Sailor's Snug Harbor," and nearly twenty other charitable establishments for the relief of the poor, the sick, &c.; in all of which foreigners enjoy the proportionable advantages.

The annual expense of our alms-house, since 1830, by which we may easily ascertain the relative proportion of foreign and American poor, through the comparative numbers before given, is as follows: